

McFaddin

National Wildlife Refuge

Waterfowl Hunting Regulations (2003-2004)



Permit # _____

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Permit

When signed and in your possession, this hunt brochure will serve as your general permit for all refuge hunts this year (*Fee Area also requires a Special Fee Area Permit*). It acknowledges your understanding of the refuge regulations contained in this brochure.

Signature of Hunter

Date

Permits are required for all hunters. This permit is valid only when signed above and the entire permit must be carried with you at all times while on the Refuge. Permits are not transferable.

General Provisions

The regulations listed below are a supplement to the general regulations set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations which govern activities on National Wildlife Refuges. Hunting will be in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

General Hunting Regulations

Public hunting of only ducks, geese, and coots on McFaddin NWR is permitted, and only in areas designated by signs as open to hunting. Hunters need to check area maps for location of hunting units and regulations governing hunting on them.

All persons entering a hunt area must be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl.

Youth hunters, 17 and younger, must be under the supervision of an adult 18 or older to hunt the refuge.

All shotguns must be unloaded and encased while in transit on the refuge. No other firearms are allowed. Hunters must be in possession ***only*** of shells containing approved non-toxic shot.

Hunters must enter the refuge between 4:00 am and ½ hour before legal shooting time. Hunting starts at legal shooting time and closes at (12:00) noon. Hunters must be off the refuge by 12:30 pm. *Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.*

Motor vehicle use is restricted to roads designated as vehicle access roads. Blocking access to any road or trail entering the refuge is prohibited.

Access into hunt areas may be by foot, outboard motor boat, or airboat. Airboats may not exceed 10 HP with direct drive with a propeller length of 48 inches or less, and engines may not exceed 2 cylinders and 484 cc. No other motorized vehicles permitted.

Watercraft use is restricted to lakes, ponds, ditches, and other open-water bodies. Watercraft (including airboats) travel across vegetated marsh habitats is prohibited.

Portable blinds or temporary native vegetation blinds are permitted. The minimum distance between hunt parties is 200 yards and from all driveable roads and buildings. No hunting off levees.

All decoys, marsh chairs, spent shells, and other equipment must be removed from the refuge daily. Use of plastic flagging, reflectors, reflective tape, or cane (phragmites) is prohibited on the refuge.

Skybusting is prohibited. Allowing birds to decoy increases your hunting success. Use of retriever dogs is encouraged for conservation of downed birds, however dogs must be under the control of handlers at all times.

Use, possession, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages anywhere on the refuge is prohibited.

Campfires are prohibited.

Some of the marsh is dangerously boggy. Alligators, poisonous snakes, mosquitoes and fire ants live in the marsh. We recommend against going into the marsh alone until you are thoroughly familiar with the hazards.

Central Hunt Units

Specific Hunt Regulations

Hunt Days

Location

West of Clam Lake Road (Entrance Road) to Refuge easement. See map for exact location of open areas.

Non-fee Area

Special Teal Season - Open daily

Regular Waterfowl Season -

Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday

Late Goose Only Season

If the light goose conservation season is in effect during 2004, the Central Hunt Units will be open during this season on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Areas normally open to waterfowl hunting, as well as the entire area between Perkin's and White's Levees, will be open. Hunters may hunt until 2:00 pm. This season closes for the refuge on March 7.

Spaced Hunt Unit

Specific Hunt Regulations

Hunt Days

Location

East of Clam Lake Road. See map for exact location of hunt areas.

Fee Area

(Special Fee Area Permit required)

\$10.00 per hunter - cash only.

No user fee for hunters under 16 years of age.

Spaced Hunt Areas

There are 28 spaced hunt areas. A maximum of four hunters per area is permitted.

Special Teal Season

Area Closed

Regular Waterfowl Season

Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday.

Late Goose Only Season

Area Closed

<i>Entry Time</i>	Permits for the Spaced Hunt Unit will be issued to registered hunters beginning at 4:00 am the day of the hunt at the waterfowl check station. Spaced hunt areas not claimed by 5:00 am will be issued to standby hunters on a first come, first serve basis. Special Fee Area Permits must be in possession while hunting.
<i>Reservation System</i>	Reservations for Special Fee Area Permits will be taken between 8:00 am and 11:30 am the Friday before the hunt week. Reservations will be taken alternatively between hunters present at check station and telephone callers. Permits are reserved until 5:00 am the day of hunt. For phone reservations, call 409/971-0337.
<i>Accessible Hunt Site</i>	Spaced hunt area at Pond 11 is reserved for disabled hunters. It will become available to non-disabled hunt parties only on a standby basis at 5:00 am on each hunt day. If any disabled parties arrive for standby status, Pond 11 will automatically be issued to that party.
Mud Bayou Hunt Unit	Location
<i>Specific Hunt Regulations</i>	West end of refuge at Jefferson Chambers counties line. See map for open areas.
	Non-Fee Area
<i>Hunt Days</i>	Special Teal Season – Open daily Regular Waterfowl Season - Sunday, Wednesday and Friday Late Goose Only Season
	If the light goose conservation season is in effect during 2004, the Mud Bayou Unit will be open during this season on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The portion of Mud Bayou that is normally open to waterfowl hunting will be open during this season. Hunters may hunt until 2:00 pm. This season closes for the refuge on March 7.
<i>Special Access</i>	Access by foot from beach on Middleton Levee. Boat access only from Gulf Intracoastal Waterway via Mud Bayou.

Signs and Boundaries

The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.



National Wildlife Refuge. This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.



Area Closed. Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



No Hunting Zone. This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.



Public Hunting Area. This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas. This is the only area where waterfowl hunting is allowed.

Hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it.

For Further Information

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 609
Sabine Pass, Texas 77655
409/971-2909
409/971-0337 Check Station
409/267-4314 Fax

<http://southwest.fws.gov>

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